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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 98-122

Document # 195a

Country: HAITI

Contingency: Overthrow or attempted overthrow of Duvalier, followed by a chaotic political situation, spreading violence and a breakdown of public order.

Likelihood: Possible, and perhaps even likely during the next few months. The situation has become increasingly volatile. Duvalier's security forces have proved incapable of mopping up the two small guerrilla fronts which Haitian exiles have now managed to sustain for weeks, and a third incursion of exiles seems likely. A number of the Ton-Ton Macoutes sent against the guerrillas have defected. Duvalier's frustration is apparently producing new friction between him and some of his military officers.

Duvalier has threatened that he would react to an attempt to overthrow him by sanctioning a bloodbath. He has already seized and executed hostages from groups suspected of supporting or sympathizing with the guerrillas; if he continues such action on a broader scale, he will risk turning larger numbers against his regime and perhaps impelling violent action on the part of those who fear they would be the next arrested.

Implications: The US would almost certainly have to become involved to the point of using military air and sea transport to evacuate US and European nationals from Haiti. In addition, depending on the severity of the crisis, there might be strong pressure for a US show of military force, or even military intervention, perhaps under OAS auspices.

In the event of Duvalier's overthrow, we do not believe there is much danger in the short-run that a Communist or extreme leftist regime would come to power. The new government would more likely be pro-US but factionalized and unstable; it thus could be expected to seek political, economic and possibly military aid from this country.

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